MAGNETO®

BENDIS
SORRENTINO
MAIOLO

SECRET WARS

MAGNETO

ASSUMING THE MANTLE OF "PROTECTOR OF MUTANTKIND" ONCE MORE, MAGNETO HAS TAKEN TO WORKING AS A LONE VIGILANTE, EXACTING REVENGE ON THE PERPETRATORS OF ANTI-MUTANT CRIMES.

MAGNETO HAS WALKED THE LINE BETWEEN SAVIOR AND DESTROYER TO ENSURE A FUTURE FOR MUTANTS. BUT HIS CRUSADE HAS ESTRANGED HIM FROM THOSE HE HOLDS DEAR, LIKE HIS DAUGHTER LORNA DANE, THE MUTANT POLARIS. HOWEVER, IN THIS MOMENT, WHEN THE INCURSION OF ANOTHER EARTH THREATENS TO DESTROY EVERYTHING THEY KNOW, POLARIS HAS JOINED MAGNETO IN HIS FIGHT. DRAWING UPON THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FORCES, HE ATTEMPTED TO REPEL THE PLANET, BUT ANY HOPE HE PROVIDED WAS SHORT-LIVED, AS SENTINELS FROM THE PARALLEL EARTH ARRIVED!

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THIS IS THE *INCURSION.*

THE *BARRIERS* BETWEEN *REALITIES* BREAKING DOWN.

TWO PARALLEL EARTHS TRYING TO OCCUPY THE SAME SPACE...

...AND WHEN THEY FINALLY COME INTO CONTACT WITH ONE ANOTHER...

...BOTH *EARTHS*...

GET BACK! ALL OF YOU!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO RUN FOR YOUR LIVES?

...BOTH *UNIVERSES*...

...WILL *CEASE* TO EXIST.

IF I DO NOT *STOP* IT.

SHZZARKKKLK

I HAVE CHOSEN TO *REFUTE* THE *INEVITABILITY* OF THIS FATE.

I HAVE CHOSEN TO *FIGHT.*

UNFORTUNATELY...

THOOOM

...THE OTHER EARTH HAD THE *SAME IDEA.*

SCANNING COMPLETE.

MUTANTS IDENTIFIED.

DESIGNATE MAGNETO AND POLARIS.

PARALLEL ENTITIES.

COUNTERMEASURES FOR PRIME ENTITIES SHOULD BE 95% EFFECTIVE.

THESE MUTANTS ARE KNOWN QUANTITIES.

YOU'RE *WRONG,* ROBOT...

SUPER WARP BACK!

YOU DON'T KNOW *ME.*

MAGNETO!

THERE WERE *PEOPLE* IN THAT BUILDING!

THEY'RE *FALLING!*

THEN *CATCH* THEM.

I WISH I COULD *EXPLAIN* MYSELF TO LORNA.

"CATCH THEM."

NICE ONE, *DAD*.

WAY TO BE A REAL @%&#.

SHE *DESERVES* AS MUCH.

SHE DESERVES *BETTER*.

SHE ALWAYS HAS.

PERHAPS THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR THE MUTANTS I'VE FOUGHT FOR.

IF I HAD DONE THINGS *DIFFERENTLY*...MAYBE I COULD HAVE *EASED* THEIR SUFFERING.

BUT...NO MATTER HOW I LIVED MY LIFE...THIS DAY WOULD HAVE COME.

NOW I MUST EMBRACE *RUTHLESS METHODS* IF I AM TO SAVE OUR UNIVERSE.

PERHAPS ONE DAY, MY DAUGHTER... AND THE REST OF THE WORLD...

...WILL BE ABLE TO FORGIVE ME.

BACK FOR MORE ALREADY?

MAN...THE *MGH* I'VE BEEN COOKING UP...IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE BLOWN THROUGH LIKE THIS.

YOU GOTTA TAKE IT EASY WITH THAT STUFF.

I DO NOT NEED *MORE.*

I NEED SOMETHING *STRONGER.*

...

STRONGER?

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

I *HEARD* HIM.

I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE I HEARD HIM *WRONG.*

BECAUSE I CAN'T DO "STRONGER."

I GAVE YOU A DOSE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO LET YOU TEAR A S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER FROM THE SKY.

WHAT MORE DO YOU *WANT?*

WHAT YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME THUS FAR HAS SUITED MY NEEDS *ADEQUATELY.*

BUT I NEED SOMETHING DECIDEDLY *MORE POWERFUL* NOW.

OUR CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE *CHANGED.*

YOU... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

→HRK←

...EVEN IF I COULD MAKE SOMETHING MORE POTENT...YOU WOULDN'T WANT IT...

...ANYTHING MORE AND...

→GGK←

...Y-YOU'LL BURN YOURSELF UP FROM THE INSIDE OUT...

LET *ME* WORRY ABOUT THAT.

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD WORRY ABOUT WHETHER I SEE YOU AS *USEFUL* OR NOT.

AH-ALL RIGHT...ALL RIGHT...

...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO WORK SOMETHING UP...

→HGK←

...MIX *HYPERCORTISONE D* INTO A STRONG BATCH OF *MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE...*

...BUT EVEN THEN...THE BOOST WILL ONLY LAST SECONDS...

AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE SECONDS WILL BE LIKE *BRAIN ANEURISM ROULETTE.*

ERIK...

...I THINK THAT'S THE BEST YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF HIM.

LET HIM DO HIS THING...

...BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...

...THIS IS A ***BLOOD-FROM-A-STONE*** SCENARIO.

THAT GOES FOR ***YOU***, TOO.

IF YOU KEEP ARTIFICIALLY ENHANCING YOUR POWERS...

...IF YOU KEEP PUSHING PAST YOUR LIMITS, YOU'LL--

I KNOW.

BUT THIS IS WORTH THE RISK.

SOONER OR LATER ANOTHER INCURSION ***WILL*** OCCUR.

WHEN IT DOES, IT WILL FALL TO ***ME*** TO STOP IT.

US.

IT WILL FALL TO US, ERIK.

THERE ARE OTHER RESOURCES TO TAP.

"THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GET THE POWER YOU NEED."

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

YOU SAVED US!

DID YOU SEE HOW AWESOME MAGNETO WAS?

MAGNETO WAS RIGHT

SO GLAD WE STAYED TO WATCH THIS!

WHAT?

SO MUCH POWER...JUST RIPPLING OFF HIM...

...LIKE PHEROMONES OR SOMETHING.

HE'S MY GOD!

MAGNETO WAS RIGHT

OKAY.

THAT'S NOT CREEPY AT ALL.

THE OTHER WORLD DISPATCHED *SENTINELS*...

WARNING!

THIS UNIT'S MOTOR SYSTEMS ARE COMPROMISED!

...MUTANT-KILLING MACHINES...

...TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST ME...

...AS IF IT VIEWS THIS WORLD AS AN *ABERRATION*...

...AS A *MUTANT* THAT NEEDS TO BE *ANNIHILATED.*

...AGAINST THIS WORLD...

THEY ARE *AFRAID*...

...AND IN THIS CASE...

...THEY SHOULD BE.

CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?

BECAUSE I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

UH... YEAH.

THAT'S BETTER.

SO I GUESS YOU GAVE YOURSELF A BUMP OF MGH?

ALL THAT TALK OF BURNING YOURSELF OUT...

...YOU REALLY WEREN'T LISTENING, WERE YOU?

IN THE DAYS TO COME, I'LL NEED MORE POWER THAN EVER BEFORE.

THAT IS WHY WE'RE HERE, ISN'T IT?

BETTER TO BOLSTER MY GIFTS NOW...

...GIVE MY BODY TIME TO ADJUST.

FOR NOW, I PREFER TO FOCUS ON THE TASK AT HAND...

...BUT FOR THAT OUR HOST MUST SHOW HIMSELF.

I'M RIGHT HERE, MAGNETO!

I GOTTA ADMIT...I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SHOW.

THOUGHT MAYBE SOMEBODY WAS PULLING MY LEG.

AFTER ALL...

...WHY WOULD THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM...

...THE *SAVIOR* OF MUTANTKIND...

...WANT TO MEET WITH THE *SUGAR MAN?*

IS THIS HOW YOU GREET ALL YOUR VISITORS?

IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF AN *AMBUSH?*

IF SO, YOU HAVE *FAILED MISERABLY.*

I SENSED YOUR PRESENCE BEFORE WE EVEN WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR.

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO CATCH ME UNAWARE...

...NOT WHEN YOU'VE ARMED YOURSELF WITH *METAL* WEAPONS.

NAW.

I'M NOT SPOILING FOR A FIGHT.

YOU AND YOUR PRETTY LITTLE FRIEND ARRANGED THIS MEETING.

YOU WANT TO TALK IN A *CIVILIZED FASHION*, I'M GAME.

YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR BEING CAUTIOUS, THOUGH...

...CAN YOU?

AFTER ALL... YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING *SERIAL KILLER* WITH ANYONE YOU PERCEIVE AS A THREAT TO MUTANTS...

...AND I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO BE *PRETTY THREATENING.*

RIGHT NOW, YOUR EXPERTISE IN *MUTANT GENETICS* IS OF MORE INTEREST...

...AND OF MORE *USE*...

...TO ME.

LOOK AT YOU BEING ALL *REASONABLE.*

ALL RIGHT... THE DOCTOR IS IN.

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

YOU WEREN'T MY *FIRST* CHOICE, SUGAR MAN.

I'VE GATHERED RESEARCH ON PLENTY OF *OTHER* SCIENTISTS...

...ESTABLISHED AT LEAST INITIAL CONTACT WITH ALL OF THEM THROUGH ONE CHANNEL OR ANOTHER...

...THEY ALL HAVE BETTER PEDIGREES THAN YOU...

...BUT MAGNETO PICKED *YOU* OUT OF THE LINEUP.

YEAH? YOU JUST *SETTLING*, MAGS?

AND WHY'S THAT?

BECAUSE I DON'T NEED CLEVER.

I NEED *QUICK AND DIRTY.*

FAIR ENOUGH.

SO...WHAT CAN I DO YA FOR?

YOU PLACE THE ORDER...

...I'LL QUOTE A *PRICE.*

THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END.

NOT TODAY, NOT TOMORROW, BUT SOME DAY *SOON.*

I BELIEVE I CAN PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING...

...BUT EVEN MY POWER MIGHT NOT BE *ENOUGH.*

SO YOU NEED MORE *JUICE* TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

YEAH.

I GOT NO LOVE FOR THIS WORLD, YA KNOW.

I GOT SOMETHING THAT *MIGHT* WORK.

MOBILE *POWER AMPLIFIERS.*

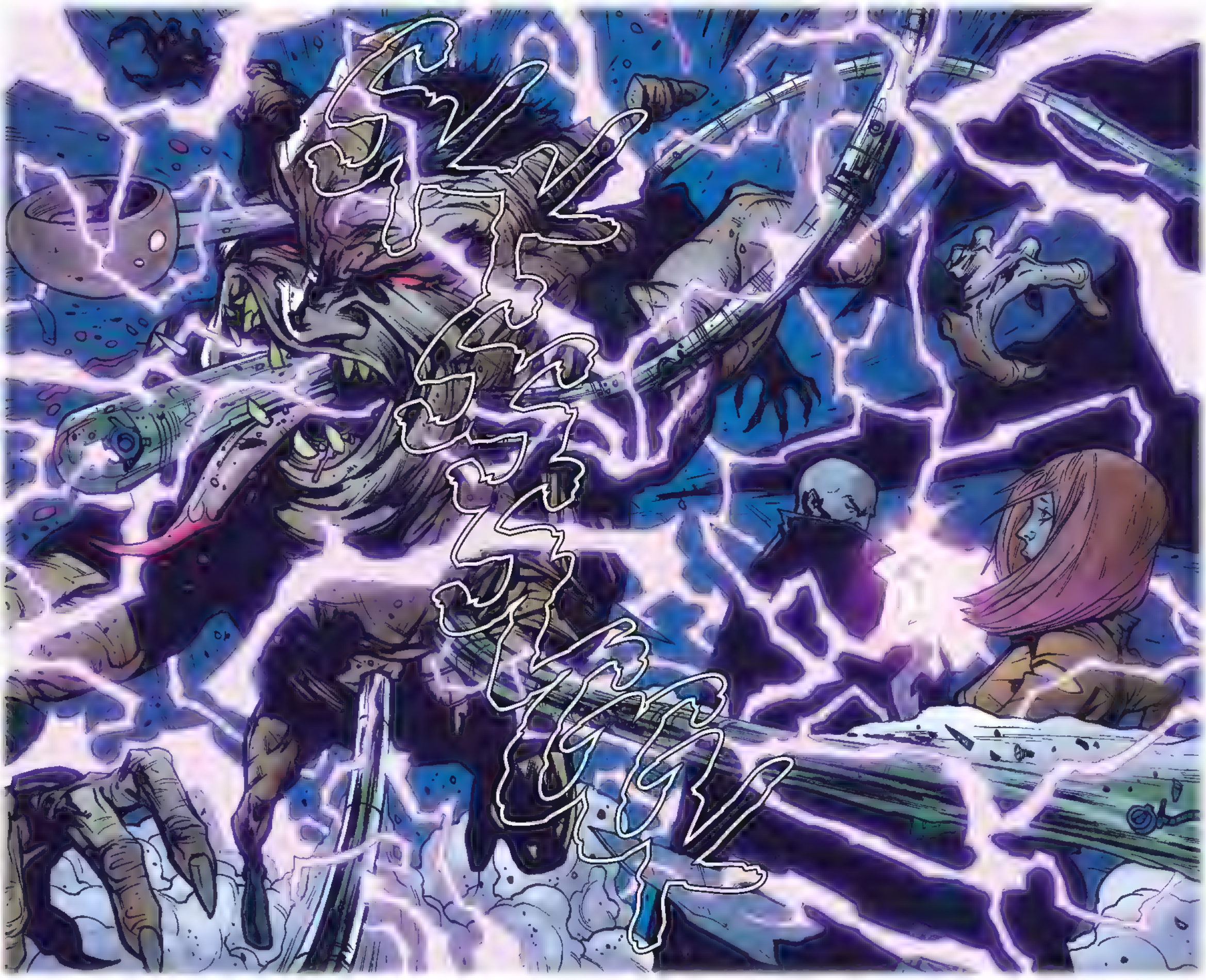
BEEN TINKERING WITH THEM...RUNNING THE DATA...IN MY SPARE TIME.

THEY AIN'T READY YET, BUT THE PLANS ARE IN PLACE.

Y'NEVER KNOW...WITH MY HELP... MAYBE JOE PUBLIC WILL START THINKING OF YOU AS A *SUPER HERO...*

...ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOU'VE GIVEN UP THAT NASTY, MURDEROUS VIGILANTE BUSINESS.

WHO SAID I HAD *ABANDONED* MY MISSION?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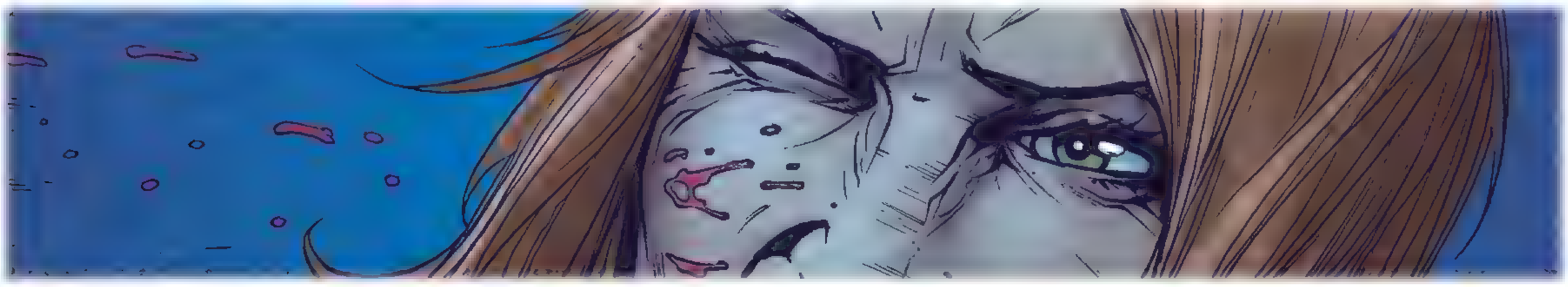
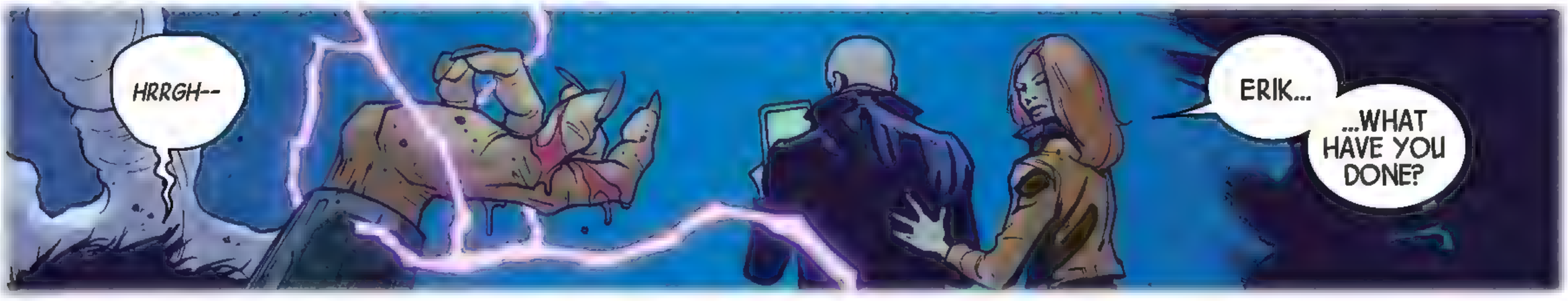
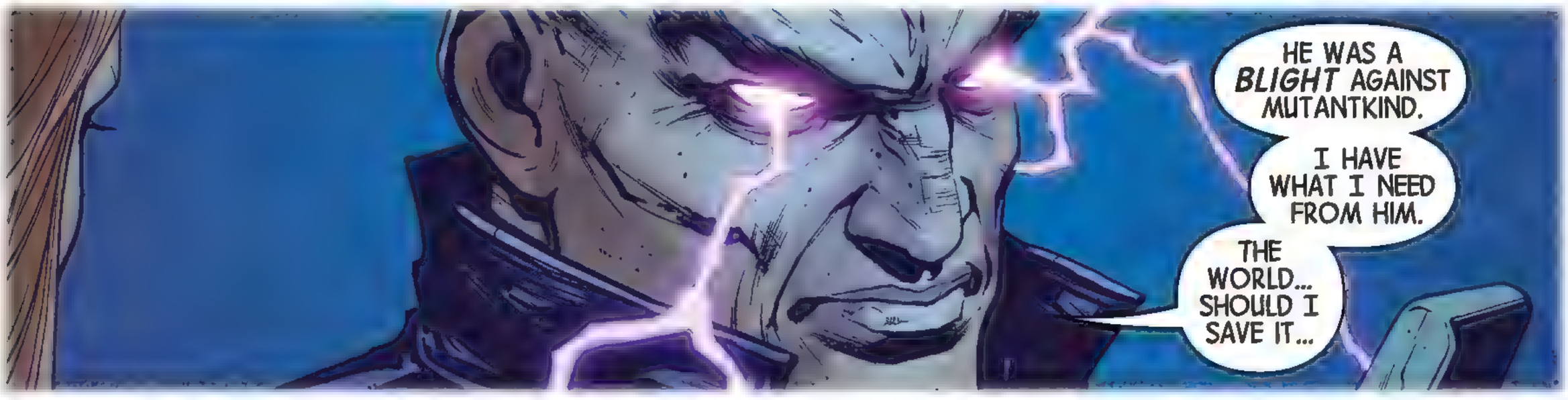



HRRGH--
ERIK...
...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?


HE WAS A BLIGHT AGAINST MUTANTKIND.
I HAVE WHAT I NEED FROM HIM.
THE WORLD... SHOULD I SAVE IT...

"...IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIS ILK."

SHAZAM!

SO MUCH POWER.

THERE'S NO WAY...

...HE CAN MAINTAIN THAT.

"IT'S TOO MUCH."

NOT... ENOUGH.

MORE POWER THAN I'VE EVER FELT...

...FUELED BY THE *MGH*...BY THE KICK...BY SUGAR MAN'S AMPLIFIERS...

...*SIPHONING* THE EARTH'S OWN MAGNETIC ENERGIES INTO MY BODY.

IT IS MORE POWER THAN I'VE *EVER* CHANNELED.

BUT IT IS *NOT* ENOUGH.

AND YET...

...IT IS *TOO GREAT* AT THE SAME TIME.

IT IS KILLING ME TOO *QUICKLY.*

I WAS GIVING YOU SOME SPACE...

...SOME ALONE TIME TO ANALYZE SUGAR MAN'S DATA...

...BUT CAN I HELP IN SOME WAY?

IS THERE ANYTHING--

SUGAR MAN'S DATA...HIS PLANS... ARE CLEAR ENOUGH.

ALL OF THE COMPONENTS ARE PROBABLY HERE... AMONGST THE CLUTTER.

I CAN PIECE TOGETHER THE POWER AMPLIFIERS.

THEY SHOULD ACT AS *CONDUITS*... ROUTING *ALL* MAGNETIC ENERGIES...NO MATTER HOW SMALL...THROUGH MY BODY.

I'LL BE ABLE TO--

NNNN

YOU'RE COMING DOWN OFF THE MGH...

...AND IT'S GETTING *HARDER,* ISN'T IT?

WHEN YOU'RE NOT ON IT, YOU--

ENOUGH.

I DON'T NEED A *NURSE.*

OKAY.

BRIAR...

...IT DAWNS ON ME THAT THERE IS LITTLE TIME LEFT.

WHENEVER THE NEXT INCURSION HAPPENS, IT WILL BE *TOO SOON.*

AND THEN...IT WILL BE *TOO LATE.*

ARE WE HAVING A MOMENT HERE?

BECAUSE I STILL HAVE BITS OF SUGAR MAN'S BLOOD IN MY HAIR AND--

IF WE HAD MORE TIME, PERHAPS I'D *INDULGE* OUR *GAME.*

SOON ENOUGH, THOUGH, I'LL GIVE MY LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIVES OF EVERY PERSON ON THIS PLANET...

...INCLUDING *YOURS...*

...INCLUDING ALL THOSE *SCIENTISTS...*

...AND I'M ASSUMING *TERRORISTS* AND *CRIMINALS* AND *HATE-MONGERS...*

...YOU SO PROUDLY BOAST YOU'VE CONTACTED.

OW!

YOU'VE FED ME INFORMATION AS IT SUITED YOU...

...PROVIDING LEADS FOR ME TO FOLLOW...

...AS IF YOU WERE GIVING A HOUND A SCENT TO TRACK.

HERE AT THE END, THOUGH, I ONLY NEED TO KNOW ONE THING.

I WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

TO BE CONTINUED!

ZONE